

# Africare/Nigeria



Technical Response to AIDS-Affected Populations

## February 2007

Africare received funding in September 2005 from the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to implement an HIV/AIDS intervention project, known as the **Technical Response to AIDS-Affected Populations (TRAP)** project in Lagos and Rivers States of Nigeria. The project focus is on HIV Counseling and Testing (HCT) and Basic Care and Support (BCS).

With funds release, project started setting up of the project in Rivers and Lagos state. Africare began the process of recruiting project staff for positions created in the project thus; **Management Team:** Project Coordinator, Monitoring & Evaluation Officer and Health Communications Officer; **State Project Team:** State Project Managers, Project Officers (Counseling and Testing), Project Officers (Care and Support), Project Officers (Mobilization/Referrals), Data Officers and other Administrative/Support staff. So far, 13 persons have been recruited to fill the positions, the rest will be recruited in the first quarter of the year 2007. While Africare's office in Port Harcourt, Rivers state accommodated the new project staff, a new office location was identified in Lagos for project activities. Project provided office equipment and furniture. Two vehicles; Toyota Hilux cars have been procured for activities in the states. A Mini Bus is being procured for the state for use during mobile clinics.

Preliminary visits were made at project inception to government officials such as the officials of the State Action Committee on AIDS (SACA); in Lagos and Rivers states, Ministries of Health at the federal and state levels and other key government agencies on Health-HIV/AIDS program in Nigeria. The meeting was to inform government officials of the project and leverage their support in project implementation. Government officials supported Africare in identifying health facilities for project implementation. So far, 9 facilities have been identified and are being supported by the project to carryout HCT and BCS services they are: University of Science and Technology - Port Harcourt, Braithwaite Memorial Hospital, Niger Hospital, General Hospital Eleme, Aluu Community Center, Rumigbo Health Center, B-Dere Health Center, and Kpor Health Center all in Rivers state and Shomolu General Hospital in Lagos state. More facilities are being identified in Lagos state. Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) are being signed between Africare, the state authorities and health facilities for partnerships in project implementation. Africare identified other organizations for collaboration. Organizations identified so far are Rhema Care Partners and Daughters of Charity both in Rivers state and Society for Women and AIDS in Africa, Nigeria (SWAAN) and StopAIDS both in Lagos states and Society for Family Health (SFH) in Lagos and Rivers States.

With the support of Institute of Human Virology Nigeria (IHV), Africare trained 67 health workers in HCT/BCS. Africare has supplied test kits and other medical supplies needed for HCT and basic care to partner health facilities and equipped some of the facilities with facilities needed to ensure quality HCT services. HCT commenced in partner facilities in September 2006. Africare has procured items needed for mobile clinics such as canopies, test kit boxes, furniture, etc. Mobile HCT commenced in public places on December 2006. Data tools and registers for tracking activities have been developed and printed for project activities.

Four Motor parks; Mile 1 and Mile II motor parks in Rivers state, Yaba and Ojuelegba motor parks have been identified to setup stand-alone HCT sites. Supports of motor park authorities have been leveraged and authorities at the parks have made spaces available for project. 64 Volunteers were selected and trained in the motor parks to encourage community members to test for HIV to know their status. Park HIV Action Committees were formed in the parks to provide support to community members living with HIV and help promote activities that will reduce stigma and discrimination.